

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03382 131426Z
ACTION NEA-11

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STADIS//////////

FOR NEA/ARN HOWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY: FURTHER RELAXATION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

1. DURING PAST WEEK WE HAVE ISSUED TOURIST VISAS TO FIVE LEADING MEMBERS OF SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THEIR WIVES WHO PLAN TO VISIT WESTERN EUROPE, THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO OVER THE SUMMER. THEY ARE: DR. HASBANI AND MESSRS. QATTASH, JAJATI, SURIEH AND MOU'ADDEB. MOU'ADDEB CARRIES IRANIAN PASSPORT. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE ISSUED VISAS TO THREE OTHER JEWISH COMMUNITY MERCHANTS TO VISIT U.S. IN ALL CASES BOND WAS SET AT 25,000 SYRIAN POUNDS PER PERSON.

2. COMMENT: SYRIAN AUTHORITIES ARE OBVIOUSLY EASING UP ON TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED LAST SUMMER AFTER DISCOVERY THAT A NUMBER OF JEWISH TRAVELERS ABROAD HAD MADE SECRET VISITS TO ISRAEL. HIGH LEVEL OF BOND MEANS AS A PRACTICAL MATTER THAT ONLY WELL-ESTABLISHED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL. IN ALL THE SPECIFIC CASES CITED ABOVE TRAVELERS ALSO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY INTERESTS IN DAMASCUS.

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PELLEREAU

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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